



# Environmental Science Graduate Program Seminar Series

## Evaluating the Luxury Effect on a Landscape Scale in Columbus, Ohio

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**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 2:00-3:00 PM**

**Smith Laboratory, Room 3150**



### Abstract

The Luxury Effect, first proposed by Hope et al in 2003, posits that biodiversity in an area is positively correlated with the socioeconomic status of that area due to planting preferences and greenspace access. If this effect is present across landscapes, it indicates a lack of access to greenspaces that provide habitat and attract biodiverse insect and animal systems in urban environments for low-income communities. This study seeks to assess if the Luxury Effect is present across urban landscapes. Using identical pollinator gardens in different areas of Columbus, Ohio, bee species richness will be measured as an indicator of biodiversity. We predict that the higher socioeconomic areas will have greater bee species richness than lower median income areas. The results of this study can be used to inform urban greening initiatives and assess concerns of environmental inequity.